



Illustration by Janet Wingate;
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BOTRYCHIUM LINEARE **LINEARLEAF MOONWORT**

Linearleaf Moonwort is a perennial with a single pale green, aboveground frond that is 6-18 cm tall. The frond is divided into two segments, one sterile, one fertile, that share a common stalk. The sterile segment is once-pinnate with 4-6 widely spaced pairs of pinnae that are linear shaped or sometimes bifid with linear lobes. The fertile segment is 1-2 times as long as the sterile segment and has a single major axis with short branches that bear grape-like sporangia. Frond probably maturing in August.

BOTRYCHIUM LINEARE is distinguished by the extremely narrow pinnae of the sterile frond segment. It is most similar to *B. CAMPESTRE*, from which it differs by having more strictly linear pinnae and by having a narrow, thin-textured axis of the sterile segment rather than a fleshy and broad one. Positive identification of moonworts depends on the use of technical keys and on comparison with silhouette outlines of verified specimens, often complicated by morphological variability within and between populations, and the presence of several species growing together at the same site.